

*L. E. 62*

A  
COLLECTION  
Of all the  
ACTS of PARLIAMENT,  
WITH  
PUBLICK PAPERS  
AND  
DECLARATIONS  
Relating to the  
CLERGY  
AND  
ECCLESIASTICAL Affairs  
Within the Kingdom of  
SCOTLAND  
Since the  
REVOLUTION.

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L O N D O N,

Printed for *Jo. Hindmarsh*, at the *Golden-Ball* in *Cornhill*,  
near the *Royal-Exchange*, M DC XCIII.

COLLECTION  
Of all the  
ACTS OF PARLIAMENT  
WITH  
PUBLIC PAPERS



TRINITY-COLLEGE  
LIBRARY  
CAMBRIDGE

Printed for W. Woodcock  
near the Royal Exchange

*to the Reader.*

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*the other complaining of their present Mis-*  
*fortune, I think they have a publick*  
*Right to give a true Relation of their*  
*Condition, than the Exaggeration of such*  
*as are in the opposite Party.*

# TO THE READER.

**T**HE following Collection of Publick Papers, Laws, and Declarations, relating chiefly to the Ecclesiastical Affairs of Scotland since the Revolution, are Reprinted with no other design, than to let the English Reader have a true account of the present Legal Establishment of that Kingdom, with regard to Church Matters. The different Relations of the two contending Parties, are ~~(it may be)~~ too much tinged with Passion and Partiality, the one

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## To the Reader.

aggravating their former Sufferings, and the other complaining of their present Miseries, I think the Laws and Publick Papers give a fairer Narration of their Constitution, than the Narratives of such as are Byass'd for or against either Party.

ACT



( 1 )  
**ACT Abolishing Prelacy.**

July 22. 1689.

**W**HEREAS the Estates of this Kingdom in their Claim of Right, of the Eleventh of April last, Declared, that Prelacy, and the Superiority of any Office in the Church above Presbyters, is and hath been a great and insupportable Grievance to this Nation, and contrary to the Inclinations of the generality of the People, ever since the Reformation, they having Reformed from Popery by Presbyters, and therefore ought to be Abolished: OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Do hereby Abolish Prelacy, and all Superiority of any Office in the Church in this Kingdom above Presbyters; and hereby Rescinds, Casses and Annuls the First Act of the Second Sess. of the First Parl. of King Charles the Second, and the Second Act of the Third Sess. of the First Parl. of King Charles the Second, and the Fourth Act of the Third Parliament of King Charles the Second, and all other Acts, Statutes and Constitutions, in so far allanerly as they are inconsistent with this Act, and do establish Prelacy, or the Superiority of Church-Officers above Presbyters. And the King and Queens Majesties Do Declare, that They, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of this Parliament, will Settle by Law that Church-Government in this Kingdom, which is most agreeable to the Inclinations of the People.

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**ACT Rescinding the First Act of the Second Parliament, 1669.**

April 25. 1690.

**O**UR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, taking into Their Consideration, that by the Second Article of the Grievances presented to Their Majesties, by the Estates of this Kingdom; It is Declared, that the First Act of the Second Par-

liament of King Charles the Second, Entituled, *Act asserting His Majesty's Supremacy over all Persons, and in all Causes Ecclesiastical*, is inconsistent with the Establishment of the Church-Government now desired, and ought to be Abrogate. Therefore Their Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, do hereby Abrogat, Rescind and Annul the foresaid Act, and Declares the same in the whole Heads, Articles and Clauses thereof, to be of no force or effect in all time coming.

*ACT Restoring the Presbyterian Ministers, who were thrust from their Churches since the first of January, 1661.*

April 25. 1690.

**F**ORASMUCH, as by an Act of this present Parliament, relative to, and in prosecution of the Glaim of Right, Prelacy, and the Superiority of Church-Officers above Presbyters, is abolished; and that many Ministers of the Presbyterian Perswasion, since the First of January, One thousand six hundred sixty one, have been deprived of their Churches, or banished for not conforming to Prelacy, and not complying with the courses of the time. Therefore Their Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Ordain and Appoint, that all these Presbyterian Ministers yet alive, who were thrust from their Charges since the first day of January, One thousand six hundred sixty one, or banished for not conforming to Prelacy, and not complying with the courses of the time, have forthwith free access to their Churches, that they may presently exercise the Ministry in these Parishes, without any new Call thereto; and allows them to bruike and enjoy the Benefices and Stipends thereunto belonging, and that for the whole Cropt One thousand six hundred eighty nine, and immediately to enter the Churches and Manfes, where the Churches are vacant, and where they are not vacant, then their entry thereto is Declared to be the half of the Benefice and Stipend, due and payable at *Michaelmas* last, for the half year immediately preceeding, betwixt *Whitsunday* and *Michaelmas*; Declaring that the present Incumbent shall have right to the other half of the Stipend and Benefice payable for the *Whitsunday* last by past: And to the effect that these Ministers may meet with no stop or hindrance, in entering immediately to their Charges, the present Incum-

bents in such Churches, are hereby appointed upon Intimation hereof, to desist from their Ministry in these Parishes, and to remove themselves from the Manes and Gleibs thereunto belonging, betwixt and *Whitsunday* next to come, that the Presbyterian Ministers formerly put out, may enter peaceably thereto. And appoints the Privy Council to see this Act put to execution.

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*ACT Ratifying the Confession of Faith, and Settling  
Presbyterian Church Government.*

June 7. 1690.

**O**UR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, and three Estates of Parliament, conceiving it to be their bound Duty, after the great Deliverance that God hath lately wrought for this Church and Kingdom, in the first place to settle and secure therein, the true Protestant Religion, according to the truth of God's Word, as it hath of a long time been professed within this Land: As also, the Government of Christ's Church within this Nation, agreeable to the Word of God, and most conducive to the advancement of true Piety and Godliness; and the Establishing of Peace and Tranquility within this Realm; and that by an Article of the Claim of Right, it is Declared, That Prelacy, and the Superiority of any Office in the Church above Presbyters, is, and hath been a great and unsupportable Grievance and Trouble to this Nation, and contrary to the inclinations of the generality of the people ever since the Reformation, they have Reformed from Popery by Presbyters, and therefore ought to be Abolished; Likewise, by an Act of the last Session of this Parliament, Prelacy is Abolished: Therefore Their Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the saids three Estates, Do hereby Revive, Ratifie and perpetually Confirm, all Laws, Statutes and Acts of Parliament, made against Popery and Papists, and for the Maintenance and Preservation of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, and for the true Church of Christ within this Kingdom, in so far as they Confirm the same, or are made in favours thereof. Likewise, they by these presents, Ratifie and Establish the *Confession of Faith*, now read in their presence, and Voted and Approven by them, as the publick and avowed Confession of this Church, containing the sum and substance of the Doctrine of the Reformed Churches;

(which Confession of Faith is subjoyned to this present Act). As also, They do Establish, Ratify, and Confirm the *Presbyterian Church-Government and Discipline*: That is to say, the Government of the Church by Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, Provincial Synods, and General Assemblies, Ratified and Established by the 114. Act. Ja. 6. Parl. 12. anno 1592. Entitled, *Ratification of the Liberty of the true Kirk*, &c. And thereafter received by the general consent of this Nation, to be the only Government of Christ's Church within this Kingdom: Reviving, Renewing, and Confirming the foresaid Act of Parliament, in the whole Heads thereof, except that part of it relating to Patronages, which is hereafter to be taken into Consideration: and Rescinding, Annulling, and making void the Acts of Parliament following, viz. Act anent *Restitution of Bishops*, Ja. 6. Parl. 18. Cap. 2. Act Ratifying the Acts of the Assembly, 1610. Ja. 6. Parl. 21. Cap. 1. Act anent the Election of Arch-bishops and Bishops, Ja. 6. Parl. 22. Cap. 1. Act Entitled, *Ratification of the five Articles of the General Assembly at Perth*, Ja. 6. Parl. 23. Cap. 1. Act Entitled, *For the Restitution, and Re-establishment of the ancient Government of the Church, by Arch-bishops and Bishops*, Chas. 2. Parl. 1. Sess. 2. Act 1st; Act anent the Constitution of a National Synod, Ch. 2. Parl. 1. Sess. 3. Act 6. Act against such as refuse to Depone against Delinquents, Ch. 2. Parl. 2. Sess. 2. Act 2. Act Entitled, *Act acknowledging and asserting the Right of Succession to the Imperial Crown of Scotland*, Ch. 2. Parl. 3. Act 2. Act Entitled, *Act anent Religion and the Trust*, Ch. 2. Parl. 3. Act 6. With all other Acts, Laws, Statutes, Ordinances and Proclamations, and that in so far as any of the said Acts and others generally and particularly above-mentioned, are contrary, or prejudicial to, inconsistent with, or derogatory from, the Protestant Religion, and Presbyterian Government, now Established; and Allowing and Declaring, That the Church Government be Established in the hands of, and Exercised by, these Presbyterian Ministers, who were Outed since the first of January, 1661, For Non-conformity to Prelacy, or not complying with the Courses of the Times; and are now Restored by the late Act of Parliament; and such Ministers and Elders only as they have admitted, or received, or shall hereafter admit, or receive: And also, that all the said Presbyterian Ministers have, and shall have Right to the Maintenance, Rights, and other Privileges, by Law provided, to the Ministers of Christ's Church within this Kingdom, as they are, or shall be legally admitted to particular Churches. Like as in pursuance of the Premises, Their Majesties, Do hereby appoint the first meeting of the General Assembly of this Church, as above Established, to be at *Edinburgh*, the

the third *Thursday* of *October* next to come, in this instant year, 1690. And because many Conform Ministers either have deserted, or were removed from Preaching in their Churches, preceeding the thirteenth day of *April*, 1689. And others were deprived, for not giving obedience to the Act of the Estates, made the 13 of *April*, 1689. Entituled, *Proclamation against the owning of the late King James, and appointing Publick Prayers for King William and Queen Mary*: Therefore Their Majesties with Advice and Consent aforesaid, Do hereby Declare all the Churches, either Deserted, or from which the conform Ministers were removed, or deprived, as said is, to be Vacant, and that the *Presbyterian* Ministers exercising their Ministry, within any of these Paroches, (or where the last Incumbent is dead) by the desire or consent of the Paroch, shall continue their Possession, and have Right to the Benefices and Stipends, according to their entry in the year 1689, and in time coming, ay and while the Church, as now Established, take further course therewith. And to the effect, the Disorders that have hapned in this Church, may be Redressed: Their Majesties, with Advice and Consent foresaid, Do hereby allow the general Meeting, and Representatives of the foresaid *Presbyterian* Ministers and Elders, in whose hands the Exercise of the Church Government is Established, either by themselves, or by such Ministers and Elders, as shall be appointed and Authorized Visitors by them, according to the custom and practice of *Presbyterian* Government throughout the whole Kingdom, and several parts thereof, to try and purge out, all insufficient, negligent, scandalous and erroneous Ministers, by due course of Ecclesiastical Process, and Censures; and likeways, for Redressing all other Church-Disorders. And further, it is hereby provided, that whatsoever Minister, being convened before the said General Meeting, and Representatives of the *Presbyterian* Ministers and Elders, or the Visitors to be appointed by them, shall either prove contumacious in not appearing, or be found Guilty, and shall be therefore Censured, whether by Suspension, or Deposition, they shall *Ipso Facto* be Suspended from, or Deprived of their Stipends and Benefices.

ACT



*ACT for Visitation of Universities, Colledges and Schools.*

July 4. 1690.

**O**UR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, and the three Estates of Parliament, Considering how necessary it is for the advancement of Religion and Learning, and for the good of the Church, and peace of the Kingdom, that the Universities, Colledges and Schools be provided, and served with pious, able, and qualified Professors, Principals, Regents, Masters, and others, bearing Office therein, well affected to Their Majesties, and the Established Government of Church and State: Therefore Their Majesties, with Advice of the saids three Estates of Parliament, Do Statute, Ordain, and Enact, that from this time forth, no Professors, Principals, Regents, Masters, or others bearing Office in any University, Colledge, or School within this Kingdom, be either admitted, or allowed to continue in the exercise of their saids Functions, but such as do acknowledge and profess, and shall subscribe to the Confession of Faith, Ratified and Approven by this present Parliament: and also Swear and Subscribe the Oath of Allegiance to Their Majesties, and withal shall be found to be of a pious, loyal, and peaceable Conversation, and of good and sufficient Literature and Abilities for their respective Employments, and submitting to the Government of the Church, now settled by Law. And albeit it be Their Majesties undoubted Right and Prerogative, to Name Visitors, and cause Visit the foresaid Universities, Colledges, and Schools; yet at this time Their Majesties are pleased to Nominate and Appoint with Advice and Consent foresaid, the persons under-named, *viz.* The Duke of Hamilton, Earl of Argyle, Earl Crawford, Earl Marischal, Earl Morton, Earl Cassils, Earl Lothian, Earl Kinross, Viscount of Arbuthnot, Viscount of Stair, Lord Raith, Lord Elphinstoun, Lord Caraross, Lord Carmichael, Lord Ruthven, Master of Burghly, Master of Stair, Lord Advocat, Sir George Campbell Justice-Clerk, the Master of Forbes, Mr. Alexander Swinton of Mersington, Mr. David Home of Croftbrig, Mr. John Hamilton of Halcraig, Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Sir Patrick Hume of Polwart, Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, Sir Thomas Burnet of Lies, Sir Robert Sinclair of Stevinson, Sir George Monro of Culren, Mr. Francis Montgomerie of Giffins, Mr. James Melvil of Halhill,

Grant of that ilk,

Bröddie of that ilk,  
Dumbar of Grange, Mr. Robert



*bert Lermant of Balcomby, Peter Hay of Naughton elder, Cunningham of Craigen, John Dampster of Pitliver, Drummond of Meggins, George Moncrieff of Ready elder, Sir John Hall of Dunglass, Sir William Hamilton, Alexander Spittle of Leuchat, John Anderson of Dowhill, Mr. James Smallat, Mr. James Rymer Minister, Mr. William Tullidaff, Mr. Gabriel Cunninghame, Mr. Edward Jameson, Mr. Alexander Pitcairn, Mr. Hugh Anderson, Mr. Gilbert Ruel, Mr. Hugh Kennedy, Mr. John Law, Mr. James Kirkton, Mr. David Blair, Mr. George Campbell, Mr. George Meldrum, Mr. Alexander Forbes, Mr. William Vilant, Mr. William Mitchell, Mr. Robert Willie, Mr. James McGill, Mr. Henry Rymer, and Mr. John Oliphant, to be Visitors, to the effect under-written, viz.*

*with full Power and Commission to them, or Major part of them, hereby Declared to be their Quorum, to meet and Visit all Universities, Colledges and Schools within this Kingdom, and to take tryal of the present Professors, Principals, Regents, Masters and others bearing Office therein, according to the Qualifications and Rules above-mentioned, and such as shall be found to be Erroneous, Scandalous, Negligent, Insufficient, or Disaffected to Their Majesties Government, or who shall not subscribe the Confession of Faith, Swear and Subscribe the Oath of Allegiance, and submit to the Government of the Church, now settled by Law, to purge out and remove, as also to consider the Foundations of the saids Universities, Colledges and Schools, with the Rents and Revenues thereof, and how the same have been administred and mannaged, and to set down such Rules and Methods for the good manningement thereof for hereafter: As likewise, for ordering the saids Universities, Colledges and Schools, and the professions and manner of Teaching therein, and all things else relating thereto, as they shall think most meet and convenient, according to the Foundations thereof, and consistent with the present Establishd Government of Church and State. And to the effect that these Professors may be more surely execute, Their Majesties, with Advice foresaid, do farther Impower the foresaid persons, Visitors, or their Quorum, to appoint Committees of such numbers of their own members, as they shall think fit from among the several Universities, and Colledges within this Kingdom, with the Schools within the bounds to be assigned to them, and then according to such Instructions and Injunctions as they shall think fit to give them: And to the effect, that upon report made by the said Committee, to the foresaid Visitors, or their Quorum, they may proceed and conclude thereupon, as they shall see cause. And Their Majesties appoint the foresaid Visitors to meet at *Edinburgh* upon the twenty third day of *July* instant,*

instant, for the first diet of their meeting, with Power to them to adjourn and appoint their own meetings, to such days and places as thereafter they shall judge convenient; and this Commission to endure ay and while Their Majesties Recall and Discharge the same.

*ACT Discharging the Yule Vacance.*

July 19, 1690.

**T**HE King and Queens Majesties Considering, that the keeping of the *Yule Vacance* hath been a great Interruption to the course of Justice in this Kingdom, to the hinderance and heavy prejudice of the Leidges thereof. Therefore They with, and by the Advice of the Estates of *Parliament*, have Discharged, and simply Discharges the foresaid *Yule Vacance*, and all observation thereof in time coming; and Reminds and Annuls all Acts, Statutes, Warrants, and Ordinances whatsoever, granted any time heretofore, for keeping of the said *Yule Vacance*, with all custom or observation thereof, and Finds and Declares the same to be extinct, void, and of no force nor effect in time coming. And Ordains the Court and Session of the Colledge of Justice and Senators and Members thereof, to Convene and Sit for the Administration of Justice, without any Interruption by the foresaid *Yule Vacance*, from the first day of *November*, to the last of *February inclusive* yearly. And Ordains the saids Senators, and remanent Members of the Colledge of Justice, to rise the said last day of *February*, and to convene and sit down again, for Administration of Justice to the Leidges the first day of *June* yearly, and to rise the last day of *July* next thereafter *inclusive*. And also Ordains the whole remanent Judges of Inferior Courts within the Kingdom, to proceed in the Administration of Justice within their several Jurisdctions, without any respect to the said *Yule Vacance*, and without any Interruption or Vacation by the same *Yule Vacance*, notwithstanding of any bygone Custom of Observation of the said *Yule Vacance*, seeing the same is now Discharged in manner foresaid.

[illegible]

## ACT Concerning Patronages.

July 19. 1690.

**O**UR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, Considering that the power of presenting Ministers to vacant Churches of late exercised by Patrons, hath been greatly abused, and is inconvenient to be continued in this Realm, Do therefore, with the Advice and Consent of the Estates of *Parliament*, hereby Discharge, Cass, Annul, and make void, the aforesaid Power, heretofore exercised by any Patron, of presenting Ministers to any Kirk now Vacant, or that shall hereafter happen to Vaik within this Kingdom, with all exercise of the said Power: And also all Rights, Gifts and Inseiments, Acts, Statutes, and Customs, in so far as they may be extended, or understood, to establish the said Right of Presentation; but prejudice always, of such Ministers as are duly entered by the foresaid Presentations (while in use) their Right to the Manse, Gleb, Benefice, Stipend, and other Profits, of their respective Churches, as accords: And but prejudice to the Patrons, of their right to imploy the vacant Stipends, on pious uses, within the respective Paroches, except where the Patron is *Papist*, in which case he is to imploy the same on pious uses, by the advice and appointment of the *Presbytry*; and in case the Patron shall fall in applying the vacant Stipend for the uses foresaid, that he shall lose his right of Administration of the vacant Stipend, for that and the next vacancy, and the same shall be disposed on by the *Presbytry*, to the uses foresaid; Excepting always the vacant Stipends, within the bounds of the Synod of *Argyle*: And to the effect, the calling and entering Ministers in all time coming, may be orderly and regularly performed, Their Majesties, with Consent of the Estates of *Parliament*, Do Statute and Declare, That in case of the vacancy of any particular Church, and for supplying the same with a Minister, the Heretors of the said Paroch (being *Protestants*) and the Elders, are to name and propose the person to the whole Congregation, to be either approved, or disapproved by them; and if they disapprove, that the disapprovers give in their Reasons, to the effect the affair may be cognosed upon by the *Presbytry* of the bounds, at whose Judgment, and by whose determination the Calling, and Entry of a particular Minister, is to be ordered and concluded: And it is hereby Enacted, That if application be not made by the Eldership, and Heretors of the Paroch,

to the *Presbytry*, for the call and choice of a Minister, within the space of six Months, after the vacancy, that then the *Presbytry* may proceed to provide the said Paroch, and plant a Minister in the Church, *tanquam jure devolutio*. It is always hereby Declared, That this Act shall be but prejudice of the calling of Ministers, to Royal Burghs by the Magistrates, Town-Council, and Kirk-Session of the Burgh, where there is no Landward Paroch, as they have been in use before the year 1660. And where there is a considerable part of the Paroch in Landward, that the Call shall be by the Magistrates, Town-Council, Kirk-Session, and the Heretors of the Landward Paroch. And in lieu and recompense of the said Right of Presentation, hereby taken away; Their Majesties with Advice and Consent foresaid, Statute and Ordain, the Heretors, and Liferenters of each Paroch, and the Town-Councils for the Burgh, to pay to the said Patrons, betwixt and *Martinmas* next, the sum of six hundred merks, proportionally effeiring to their valued Rents in the said Paroch, *viz.* two parts by the Heretors, and a third part by the Liferenters, deducing always the Patrons own part, effeiring to his proportion as an Heretor, and that upon the said Patron his granting a sufficient and formal Renunciation of the said right of Presentation, in favours of the saids Heretors, Town-Council for the Burgh, and Kirk-Session. And it is hereby Declared, That as to the Paroches, to which Their Majesties have Right to present, upon payment of the said six hundred merks to the Clerk of the Treasury, Their Majesties shall be fully denuded of Their Right of Presentation, as to that Paroch; and as to other Patrons, if they refuse to accept the said six hundred merks, the same is to be consign'd in the hands of a responsal person in the Paroch, upon the hazard of the Consigners, not to be given up to the Patron, until he grant the said Renunciation; allowing in the mean time, the Heretors, and Kirk-Session, to call the Minister, conform to this Act; and Ordains Letters of Horning to be direct at the instance of the Patron, against the Heretors and others, who shall not make payment of the said six hundred merks, after the said term of *Martinmas* next; and likewise at the instance of the Heretors, and others willing to pay, against these who are unwilling; and in case the Patron be unwilling, to accept the said sum, or the Heretors and others aforesaid, unwilling to pay, Ordains Letters of Horning to be direct at the instance of Their Majesties Solicitor, against either of them. And further, Their Majesties with Advice and Consent foresaid, Statute, Enact, and Declare, That the Right of the Teinds of the saids Paroches, which are not Heretably Dispos'd, shall by vertue of this present Act, belong to the said Patrons,

with

with the burden always of the Ministers Stipends, Tacks, and Prorogations, already granted of the said Teinds, and of such augmentations of Stipends, future Prorogations, and Erections of new Kirks, as shall be found just and expedient, providing the saids Patrons, getting right to the Teinds, by virtue of this present *Act*, and who had no right thereto before, shall be; Likeas, They are hereby obliged to sell to each Heretor the Teinds of his own Lands, at the rate of six years purchase, as the same shall be valued by a Commission, for valuation of Teinds: And whereas there are certain Lands and Annualrents holden of the said Benefices, and Beneficed persons, from which the Patrons might have some benefit arising to them; It is hereby Ordained, that the Right of Superiority of the saids Lands and Annualrents, shall belong to Their Majesties in all time coming, with all the whole Casualties and Emoluments thereof, notwithstanding of any former *Act* of Parliament in the contrair; Reserving notwithstanding to the Patrons, the Feu-farms, and Feu-mails of the said Superiorities; ay and while they receive payment and satisfaction from Their Majesties, of the price thereof, at the rate of 1000 merks for each Chalder of Victual over-head, and for each hundred merks of Feu-mail, except where the said Feu-farms are a part of the Ministers modified Stipend, or where the Ministers is, and has been in possession thereof by the space of ten years, or where he has the full Benefice, in which cases they are to be irredeemable. Excepting likewise from this *Act* the Superiorities belonging to the Deanry of *Hamilton*, and the Provostry of *Botbwell*, whereunto the Duke of *Hamilton* has Right, - which are no ways hereby prejudged.

*ACT for taking the Oaths of Allegedance  
and Assurance.*

*Edinburgh, the Twenty third day of May, 1693.*

**F**ORASMUCH as, the imposing and taking the Oath of *Allegedance*, and the *Assurance*, enacted in this current Parliament, as hereto subjoyned, will be a further Security to the Protestant Religion and Their Majesties Government, in this present exigence: Therefore the King and Queens Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Statute and Ordain, that the said Oath of *Allegedance*, be Sworn, and the same with the foresaid *Assurance*, be Subscribed by



all Noblemen, and their eldest Sons, being past Twenty one years of Age, and by all persons in Offices and Places of publick Trust, Civil, Ecclesiastical and Military, *to wit*, by all Members of Parliament, and Electors of Members of *Parliament*, all Privy Counsellours, all Officers of State, and of the Crown, all the Lords of Session, Advocates, and all others, Members of the Colledge of Justice, the Lords of Thesaury and Exchequer, Lords of Justice, and all Members of these Courts, and all Officers, and Members of the *Admiralty*, and all Officers, and Members of the Chancellery, Writers, and Underkeepers of the Privy-Seal, Post-masters, and their Clerks, all Commissioners to the Convention of Burrows, and their Clerk, and the Servants who officiate under him, and the *Agent* for the Royal-Burrows, the Conservator of the *Scots* Priviledges in *Holland*, and the Factors at the Staple-ports, all Colonels, and other Commissionat Officers of the Train-bands, all Persons who are, or shall be Commissioners for Valuation, Re-valuation, or rectifying Valuation of Lands, and all Persons having heretabable Offices from the King, not already mentioned in this *Act*, all Preachers and Ministers of the Gospel whatsoever, and all Clerks in Church Judicatories and Precenters, and all Heretors voting in the calling of Ministers, and all others whatsoever, giving voice in the said calling of Ministers, at their Meeting for that effect, all Persons in this Kingdom named, or to be named Judges, in Commissions of Justice, all Members of the Commission for Valuation of Feinds, and Plantation of Kirks, or other Commissions of *Parliament*, all Sheriffs, Stewarts, Bailies of Royalties and Regalties, Commissars and their Deputs, Clerks and Fiscals, Justices of Peace, Commissioners for the Supply and Excise, Officers of the Mint, with their Clerks and Fiscals, all Procurators before any of the Courts above-mentioned, all Writers to the Signet, all publick Notars, and other persons employed in writing, or agenting, the Lyon King at Arms, the Lyon the Deput, *Heralds*, *Macers*, Purservants, and Messengers at Arms, and their Clerk, all Chamberlains, Collectors, Fermorers, Tacksmen, Sub-collectors of Their Majesties Crown-rents, Customs, Assesment, Excise, Bishop-Rents, Vacant Stipends, or any other Moneys belonging, or that shall happen to belong to Their Majesties, all Surveyers, and Waiters for the Customs and Excise, and Clerks in any of these Offices, or Employments, and Clerks of Coquets, all Magistrats, Deatis of Gild with their Council, Thesaurers, Counsellours, and Clerks of Burghs-Royal, and of Regality, or such as officiate for them, all Deacons of Trades, and Deacon-Conveeners in the said Burghs, and such as have any voice in electing of Deacons of Trades, and all Clerks of Trades, all Jaylor and Keepers of Prisons, and Under-keepers,



keepers, and their Clerks, and all Masters and Doctors in Universities, Colledges, or Schools, and Keepers of publick Libraries, all Chaplains in Families, and Pedagogues, and Governours to Children and Youth, all Officers in the Army, Forts and Garrisons, and all Masters of Ships and their Mates. All which persons, and every one of them, shall now, and in all time coming, publickly Swear the said Oath, and subscribe the same with the *Assurance* in manner following, *viz.* The Officers of State and of the Crown, and Counsellors before the Secret Council, all Noblemen and their eldest Sons, past Twenty one years of age, and the chief Commanders of the Forces, before the Secret Council, or such as they shall appoint, all the Lords of Session, and all Members of the Colledge of Justice, and others depending upon them, before the Session, or before the Privy-Council, or such as the Lords shall appoint, the Lords of Justiciary, and those depending upon that Court, in the Justice Court, the Lords and others Members of the Exchequer, before the Exchequer, the Lord high *Admiral* and the Judge, and other Officers, and Members of the *Admiralty* before the Court of *Admiralty*, all Judges having Commissions of Justiciary, at the first meeting, before they exercise, by vertue of these Commissions: the Officers and Members of the Chancellory, Writers to, and Under-keepers of the Privy Seal before the Session, or such as the Secret Council shall appoint, Commissioners to the Convention of Burrows, the Clerk and the Servants who officiate under him, and the Agent for the Burrows, before the Conventions of Burrows: The Conservator before the Convention of Burrows, or such as the Privy Council shall appoint: and the Factors, at Staple-ports before the Conservator in his Court: Members of the Commission for the Valuation of Tiends, and Plantation of Kirks, or of other Commissions before those respective Commissions, Sheriffs, Stewarts, Bailies of Royalties and Regalities, Commissars and their Deputies, Clerks and Fiscals, before these respective Courts, Justices of Peace, Commissioners for the Supply and Excise before their Conveener, he first qualifying himself in their Meeting, the General of the Mint, before the Secret Council, and all other Officers of the Mint, before the General thereof: all Advocates and Procurators, before the respective Courts to which they belong: all Notars and other Persons employed in Writing, or Agenting before the Lords of Session, or such as the Council shall appoint: the Lyon King at Arms before the Secret Council: the Lyon Deput, Heralds, Pursuivants, and Messengers at Arms, with the Clerk, before the Lyon in his Court: The Macers before the respective Courts wherein they serve, or before these whom the Council shall appoint: Chamberlains, Collectors,

Fermorers, Tacks-men, and Sub-collectors of the Crown-Rents, Customs, Excise, Bishops-Rents, Surveyers, Waiters and their Clerks, before the Lords of Theſaury and Exchequer, or before whom they ſhall appoint Collectors of the Supply and Excise, before the Commiſſioners of Supply and Excise, Magiſtrats, Deans of Gild with their Council, Theſaurers, Counſellours, and Clerks of Burghs-royal and Regality, Deacons of Trades, and Deacon-conveners, and theſe who have a voice in electing of Deacons of Trades, and Clerks of Trades, before the Council of the Burgh: Officers of the Army before the Commander in chief, or whom he ſhall appoint: And Officers of Ports, before the Secret Council, or ſuch as they ſhall appoint: Maſters of Ships and their Mates, before the Court of *Admiralty*, or ſuch as they ſhall appoint: And all the other Perſons above-ranked, without any ſpecial appointment, before ſuch as the Privy Council ſhall appoint.

And Their Majeſties with Conſent foreſaid, Statute and Ordain, that the whole Perſons above-mentioned, ſhall Swear the ſaid Oath, and ſubſcribe the ſame, and the *Aſſurance* in manner foreſaid, betwixt and the Twentieth day of *June* next: for which end, all the Inferiour Courts, are hereby diſpenſed with, to Sit to the effect foreſaid, excepting Electors of Members of Parliament, and Members of the Commiſſions above-mentioned, and theſe giving voice in calling of Miniſters, and ſuch as have voice in Electing of Deacons of Trades, who are hereby appointed to take the ſaid Oath, and ſubſcribe the ſame, with the *Aſſurance*, as follows, *viz* The Electors of Members of Parliament, before they elect, Members of Commiſſions, before they exercise the Commiſſions: And ſuch as have a voice in calling of Miniſters, or electing of Deacons of Trades, before they give voice in calling of Miniſters, or electing of Deacons of Trades, and alſo, excepting the Conſervator, and the Factors of the Staple ports, who are to ſwear the ſaid Oath, and ſubſcribe the ſame, and the *Aſſurance*, betwixt and the fifteenth day of *Auguſt* next. And the ſaid Oath and *Aſſurance*, ſworn and ſubſcribed as above, are to be recorded in the Registers of the reſpective Courts and Meetings, and the Extracts thereof under the Clerks hands, to be reported to Their Majeſties Privy Council, under the pain of Deprivation of the Clerk, for ſuch as are appointed to ſwear and ſubſcribe, betwixt and the twentieth of *June*, to be reported betwixt and the firſt of *Auguſt* next, and for the reſt, within twenty days after their ſaid ſwearing and ſubſcribing. And it is further Statute and Ordained, that all Perſons, who ſhall hereafter be advanced to, or employed in any of the foreſaid Offices, Truſts, or Stations, ſhall at their Entry unto, and before their exercising thereof, ſwear the ſaid Oath, and ſubſcribe the ſame, and the *Aſſurance* in manner foreſaid,

said, to be recorded in the Registers of the respective Courts, and reported to Their Majesties Privy Council, within the space of forty days after taking of the same, and exercising the foresaids Offices, Trusts, Privileges, and Imployments, which Reports are to be received, and taken in by the Clerks of Privy Council *gratis*, and it is hereby Statute and Ordained, That all Persons who shall obtain any free Gift, or Donations from the Lords of Their Majesties Privy Council, Thesaury or Exchequer, or shall present any Signature of Pension, Remission, or containing a *de novo damus*, or any other casualty, except Gifts of Escheats, are to take the said Oath and *Assurance*, before obtaining the said Gift, or passing the said Signature, certifying such of the foresaids Persons as are, or shall be in any publick Office, Trust or Imployment, or who shall own, or exercise the same, without taking the said Oath and *Assurance* in manner foresaid, they shall be deprived *ipso facto* of their saids Offices, Trusts and Imployments, and Ministers provided to Kirks, shall be deprived of their Benefices, or Stipends, and Preachers not provided to Kirks, shall be punished by Banishment or otherways, as the Council shall think fit; and all the foresaid Tacksmen, shall be punished as the Privy Council shall think fit: And farther that they and all other Persons, whether above ranked or not, who shall not swear the said Oath, and subscribe the same, and the *Assurance*, shall not be allowed to keep any Horses above an hundred Merks price, nor any sort of Arms, more than a Walking-Sword; certifying, such as shall be found to have Horses and Arms contrair to this Provision, either in their own, or in the keeping of others, that both the Owner and the Keeper, shall incur the Penalty of one Thousand Merks, the one half to the Informer, and the other to Their Majesties; and Their Majesties with consent foresaid, Authorizes and Impowers the Lords of Privy Council, to take such further effectual Methods, for Disarming these Persons, and sealing of their Horses above the foresaid value, as they shall judge necessary: As likewise, they impower the Council to call before them, all, or any Heretors, or other Persons, whom they shall think fit, whether above ranked or not, and to put the said Oath and *Assurance* to them, and in case of their Refusal, to proceed against them by Fining, Confining, Imprisonment, or Banishment, as they shall see cause; the Fine if they be Heretors, to be the double of their Cess or Supply, and further, (if the Council shall think fit,) not exceeding an years valued Rent; and for others not Heretors, the third part of their escheatable Goods, by and attour the other Penalties, contained in the thirty eight Act of the second Session of this current Parliament; It is also hereby enacted, that the said Oaths of *Allégeance* and *Assurance*, are in no case to be imposed, or taken severally

verally, but joyntly, declaring hereby, that these who refuse the one, shall be holden as refusing both. And Their Majesties with Advice foresaid, recommends to Their Privy Council, to see this Act put to due and vigorous Execution, with all diligence: And it is hereby declared, that the foresaid general Power granted to the Council, is to endure until the next Session of Parliament annually: And Lastly, it is hereby provided, that such as have already taken and subscribed the said Oath, and subscribed the Assurance, shall not be obliged, by vertue hereof, to take and subscribe the same again in the same Capacity.

### The Oath of Allegiance.

I A. B. Do sincerely Promise and Swear, that I will be faithful, and bear true Allegiance to Their Majesties, King WILLIAM and Queen MARY; So help me GOD.

### The Assurance.

I A. B. Do in sincerity of my Heart, Assert, Acknowledge and Declare, that Their Majesties King WILLIAM and Queen MARY, are the only Lawful undoubted Sovereigns of this Realm, as well de jure, That is of Right, King and Queen, as de facto, That is in the Possession and Exercise of the Government: And therefore, I do sincerely and faithfully Promise and Engage, that I will with Heart and Hand, Life and Goods, maintain and defend Their Majesties Title and Government, against the late King James, and his Adherents, and all other Enemies, who either by open or secret Attempts, shall Disturb or Disquiet Their Majesties in the Possession and Exercise thereof.

Extracted forth of the Records of Parliament, by

TARBAT. Cls. Registri,

God save King William and Queen Mary.

ACT

# ACT For Settling the Quiet and Peace of the Church.

Edinburgh, the 12th day of June, 1693.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Ratifie, Approve, and perpetually Confirm the fifth Act of the second Session of this current Parliament, Intituled, *An Act Ratifying the Confession of Faith, and settling Presbyterian Church-Government*, in the whole Heads, Articles, and Clauses thereof; And Do further Statute and Ordain, That no person be admitted, or continued for hereafter, to be a Minister or Preacher, within this Church, unless that he having first Taken and Subscribed the Oath of *Allegiance*, and Subscribed the *Affurance* in manner appointed by another Act of this present Session of Parliament, made thereanent: Do also Subscribe the Confession of Faith, Ratified in the foresaid fifth Act of the second Session of this Parliament, declaring the same to be the Confession of his Faith, and that he owns the Doctrine therein contained, to be the true Doctrine which he will constantly adhere to: As likewise, that he owns and acknowledges *Presbyterian Church-Government*, as settled by the foresaid fifth Act of the second Session of this Parliament, to be the only Government of this Church, and that he will submit thereto, and concur therewith, and never endeavour, directly or indirectly, the prejudice, or subversion thereof. And Their Majesties, with Advice and Consent foresaid, Statute and Ordain, That \* *Uniformity of Worship*, and of the administration of all public Ordinances within this Church be observed by all the saids Ministers and Preachers, as the same are at present performed, and allowed therein, or shall be hereafter declared by the authority of the same: and that no Minister or Preacher be admitted or continued for hereafter, unless that he subscribe to observe, and do actually observe the foresaid Uniformity: And for the more effectual Settling the Quiet and Peace of this Church, The Estates of Parliament do hereby make an humble Ad-

\* i. e. That none of the Forms be retained in the Publick Worship of God, that are not used by the Presbyterians, viz. The Lords Prayer, the Daxology, the Apostles Creed; and that the Holy Scriptures must not be read in the Publick Assemblies as heretofore.



dres to Their Majesties, That They would be pleased to Call a General Assembly, for the ordering the affairs of the Church ; and to the end that all the present Ministers possessing Churches, not yet admitted to the exercise of the foresaid Church-Government, conform to the said Act, and who shall qualifie themselves in manner foresaid, and shall apply to the said Assembly, or the other Church Judicatures competent in an orderly way, each man for himself, be received to partake with them in the Government thereof : Certifying such as shall not qualifie themselves, and apply to the said Assembly, or other Judicatures within the space of thirty days, after meeting of the said first Assembly, in manner foresaid, that they may be Deposed by the Sentence of the said Assembly and other Judicatures *sam ab officio, quam a beneficio* ; and withal Declaring, That if any of the saids Ministers who hath not been hitherto received into the Government of the Church, shall offer to qualifie themselves, and to apply in manner foresaid, they shall have Their Majesties full Protection, ay and while they shall be admitted, and received in manner foresaid ; providing always that this Act, and the benefit thereof, shall no ways be extended to such of the saids Ministers as are Scandalous, Erroneous, Negligent, or Insufficient, and against whom the same shall be verified within the space of thirty days after the said application ; but these and all others in like manner guilty are hereby Declared to be liable and subject to the Power and Censure of the Church as accords : and to the effect that the Representation of this Church in its General Assemblies, may be the more equal in all time coming, Recommends it to the first Assembly that shall be Called, to appoint Ministers to be sent as Commissioners from every *Presbytery*, not in equal number, which is manifestly unequal where *Presbyteries* are so ; but in a due proportion to the Churches and Parochies within every *Presbytry*, as they shall judge convenient ; and it is hereby Declared, That all School-masters, and Teachers of Youth in Schools, are, and shall be lyable to the Tryal, Judgment and Censure of the *Presbyteries* of the Bound for their Sufficiency, Qualifications and Deportment in the said Office. And Lastly, Their Majesties with advice and consent foresaid, Do hereby Statute and Ordain, That the Lords of Their Majesties Privy Council, and all other Magistrats, Judges and Officers of Justice, give all due assistance for making the Sentences and Censures of the Church, and Judicatures thereof to be obeyed, or otherways effectual as accords.

*Extracted forth of the Records of Parliament, by*

TARBAT, *Cls. Regist.*

GOD Save King William and Queen Mary.

ACT



## AN ACT of COUNCIL.

At Edinburgh, Dec. 24. 1689.

THE Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council, considering, that by the Act of the Meeting of Estates of the date the thirteenth day of *April* last, there is a difference made betwixt the Ministers then in possession, and exercise of their Ministry, at their respective Churches, and those who were not so. And that the case of the Ministers who were not in the actual exercise of their Ministerial Function, the thirteenth day of *April* last, lies yet under the consideration of the Parliament, and left in the mean time they may call and pursue for the Stipends (alleged) due to them, or put in execution the Decrees and Sentences already obtained at their instance for the same, before the Estates of Parliament can meet, and give the determinations in the points. Therefore the said Lords of Privy Council, finding that the Case foresaid depending before the Parliament is not obvious to be cognosced upon, and decided by the Inferiour Judges, but that the same should be left entire to the decision of the Parliament, have thought fit to signify to all Inferiour Courts and Ministers of the Law, that the matter above-mentioned, is depending before the Parliament, to the effect they may regulate and govern themselves in the judging of all Processes to be intended before them upon the said matter, or in executing the Sentences already pronounced thereupon, as they will be answerable.

Sic subscribitur, Crawford, I. P. D. S. Com.

# ACT anent Ministers that have not prayed for the King and Queen.

July 22. 1690.

THE Estates of Parliament taking into their Consideration, that several Ministers deprived for not Praying publicly for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, as King and Queen of this Realm, and not Reading the *Proclamation* of the Estates, emitted upon the thirteenth day of *April*, One thousand six hundred eighty nine, for that effect, are by their Sentence of Deprivation expressly prohibited to exercise any part of their Ministerial function within the Parôches from which they were deprived, Do nevertheless now far more perniciously and dangerously diffuse the poyson of their Disaffection, by taking the liberty to preach and pray at other Churches, and elsewhere, where they neglect to pray for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, in manner enjoyned by the said *Proclamation*, to the manifest contempt of publick Authority, and the stirring-up and fermenting the disaffection of the people to Their Majesties, and the present Government, and the encouragement of all their Enemies. Therefore Our Sovereign Lord and Lady, the King and Queens Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the said Estates of Parliament, Do hereby prohibit and discharge the whole foresaid Ministers, Deprived as said is, to preach or exercise any part of the Ministerial Function, either in Churches or elsewhere, upon any pretext whatsomever, until first they present themselves before the Lords of Their Majesties Secret Council, and there in presence of the Lords thereof, Take, Swear, and Subscribe the Oath of Allegiance, and also engage themselves under their Hands, to pray for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, as King and Queen of this Realm, and not to own or acknowledge the late King *James* the Seventh for their King, in any sort, conform to the Tenor of the said *Proclamation*; Certifying such Ministers as shall do in the contrary, that they shall be proceeded against as persons disaffected, and Enemies to Their Majesties Government, with all Rigor: And further, Their Majesties, with Advice and Consent foresaid, ordain the said *Proclamation*, and Act of the Estates of the Kingdom,

dom, to be put to further Execution against all such Ministers, who have not as yet given Obedience thereto, by Praying for Their Majesties in manner foresaid; and that the Lords of Their Majesties Privy Council proceed therein, or empower the Sheriffs and Magistrats of Burghs, to do the same within their respective bounds, as they shall see cause:

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## ACT for Security of Their Majesties Government.

July 22. 1690.

**T**HE Estates of *Parliament* Considering how just and necessary it is, for the Security of Their Majesties Government, and the Peace of the Kingdom, that all Their Subjects be Men of Integrity, well and dutifully affected, and that others who are otherways inclined may be discovered; and that the late King *James* does still pretend a Title, and doth maintain a War against Their Majesties, and by many Contrivancies, endeavours to Divert Their Majesties Leidges from their Allegiance, and for this end there is a distinction betwixt a King *de facto*, and a King *de jure*, cunningly of late spread abroad, thereby to weaken and invalidat the Allegiance sworn to Their Majesties: Therefore the King and Queens Majesties, with the Advice and Consent of the Estates of *Parliament*, Enacts, Statutes and Ordains, That all persons, who in Law, are obliged to Swear and take the Oath of Allegiance; and all other Subjects of this Kingdom, whom the Council shall think fit

fit to put the Oath of Allegiance to, (being hereby authorized to do the same to every Subject of this Realm they see cause) shall Subscribe the Certificat and Assurance under-written ; Declaring, that such as shall refuse to Subscribe the same, shall be reputed Disaffected to Their Majesties Government, and be deprived of any Offices, Benefices, and Jurisdictions which they enjoy, and be obliged to give such security for their good behaviour, and that they shall act nothing against the Government, as Their Majesties High Commissioner, or the Lords of His Majesties Privy Council shall think fit, providing it extend no further than Bond, Caution, or personal Imprisonment, securing of Horse and Arms, or Garrison of Houses, &c.

**I** A. B. Do in the sincerity of my Heart, Assert, Acknowledge and Declare, That Their Majesties King WILLIAM and Queen MARY, are the only Lawful Undoubted Sovereigns, King and Queen of Scotland, as well de jure, as de facto, and in the Exercise of the Government : And therefore, I do sincerely and faithfully Promise and Engage, that I will with Heart and Hand, Life and Goods, Maintain and Defend Their Majesties Title and Government, against the late King James, his Adherents, and all other Enemies, who either by open or secret Attempts, shall Disturb or Disquiet Their Majesties in the Exercise thereof.

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ACT

*ACT of the General Assembly, a-  
gent a Solemn National Fast and Ha-  
miliation, with the Causes thereof.*

*At Edinburgh, November 12. 1690. Postmeridiem, Sess. 25.*

**T**HE General Assembly, having taken into their most serious Consideration, the late great and general Defection of this Church and Kingdom, have thought fit to appoint a Day of Solemn Humiliation and Fasting, for Confession of Sins, and making Supplication to our Gracious God, to forgive and remove the guilt thereof: In order whereunto, they have Ordained the Confession of Sins, and Causes of Fasting following, to be duly Intimat and Published; Recommending it most earnestly to all Persons, both Ministers and others, That every one of us may not only search and try our own hearts and ways, and stir up our selves to seek the Lord; But also in our Stations, and as we have access, Deal with one another, in all love and tenderness, to prepare for so great and necessary a Duty, that we may find mercy in God's sight, and He may be graciously reconciled to our Land in our Lord Jesus, and take delight to dwell among us.

Although our gracious God hath of late, for his own Names sake, wrought great and wonderful things, for *Brittain* and *Ireland*, and for this Church and Nation in particular; Yet the Inhabitants thereof have cause to remember their own evil ways, and to loath themselves in their own sight for their Iniquities.

*Alas !*

Alas! We, and our Fathers, our Princes, our Pastors,  
 and People of all Ranks have sinned, and have been un-  
 der great Transgression to this day: For though our  
 gracious God shewed early kindness to this Land, in  
 sending the Gospel amongst us, and afterward in our  
 Reformation from Popish Superstition and Idolatry, and  
 it had the Honour, beyond many Nations, of being af-  
 ter our first Reformation, solemnly devoted unto God,  
 both Prince and People, yet we have dealt treache-  
 rously with the Lord, and been unstedfast in his Cove-  
 nant, and have not walked suitably to our Mercies received  
 from him, nor obligations to him: Through the mercy of  
 God this Church had attained to a great purity of Do-  
 ctrine, Worship, and Government, but this was not accom-  
 panied with suitable personal Reformation, neither was our  
 Fruit answerable to the pains taken of us by Word and  
 Work; We had much Gospel-preaching, but too little Gospel-  
 practice; too many went on in open wickedness, and some  
 had but a form of Godliness, denying the power thereof;  
 many also who had the Grace of God in truth fell from  
 their first love, and fell under sad languishings and de-  
 cays; and when for our sins the anger of the Lord had  
 divided us, and we were brought under the feet of stran-  
 gers, and many of our Brethren killed, others taken  
 Captive and sold as slaves, yet we sinned still, and after  
 we were freed from the yoke of strangers, instead of re-  
 turning to the Lord, and being led to Repentance by  
 his goodness, the Land made open Defection from the  
 good ways of the Lord: many behaved as if they had  
 been delivered to work abomination, the flood-gates  
 of Impiety were opened, and a deluge of wickedness  
 did overspread the Land: Who can without grief  
 and shame remember the shameful debauchery and drun-  
 kenness that then was? And this accompanied with hor-  
 rid and hellish cursing and swearing, and followed with  
 frequent



frequent Filthiness, Adulteries, and other Abominations, and the Reprover was hated, and he that departed from Iniquity made himself a reproach or prey. And when by these, and such like corrupt practices, Mens Consciences were debauched, they proceeded to sacrifice the Interest of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Priviledges of his Church to the lusts and will of Men; The Supremacy was advanced in such a way, and to such an height, as never any Christian Church acknowledged; the Government of the Church was altered, and Prelacy (which hath been always grievous to this Nation) introduced, without the Churches consent, and contrair to the standing Acts of our National Assemblies, both which the present Parliament hath (blessed be God) lately found; And yet nevertheless, of the then standing Ministry of *Scotland*, many did suddenly and readily comply with that alteration of the Government, some out of Pride and Covetousness or Man-pleasing, some through infirmity or weakness, or fear of Man, and want of Courage and Zeal for God; many faithful Ministers were thereupon cast out, and many Insufficient and Scandalous Men thrust in on their Charges, and many Families ruined, because they would not own them as their Pastors.

And alas! It is undeniable, there hath been under the late Prelacy, a great decay of Piety, so that it was enough to make a man be nicknam'd a Phana-tick, if he did not run to the same excess of riot with others.

And should it not be lamented, for it cannot be denied, there hath been in some a dreadful Atheistical Boldness against God, some have disputed the Being

of God, and his Providence, the Divine Authority of the Scriptures, the Life to come, and Immortality of the Soul, yea, and scoffed at these things.

There hath been also an horrid Profanation of the Holy and Dreadful Name of God, by Cursing and Swearing: Ah! there hath been so much Swearing and Forswearing amongst us, that no Nation under Heaven have been more guilty in this than we; some by swearing rashly or ignorantly, some falsely, by breaking their Oaths, and imposing and taking ungodly and unlawful Oaths and Bonds whereby the Consciences of many have been polluted and scared, and many ruined and oppressed for refusing and not taking them.

There hath also been a great neglect of the Worship of God, too much in publick, but especially in Families, and in secret.

The wonted care of Religious sanctifying the Lord's Day is gone, and in many places the Sabbath hath been, and is shamefully profaned.

The Land also hath been full of bloody Crimes, and Cities full of Violence, and much innocent Blood shed, so that Blood touched Blood; yea, Sodom's sins have abounded amongst us, Pride, fulness of Bread, Idleness, Vanities of Apparel, and shameful sensuality filled the Land.

And alas! how great hath been the Cry of Oppression, and Unrighteousness, Iniquity hath been established by a Law, there hath been a great perverting of Justice, by making and executing unrighteous Statutes

Statutes and Acts, and sad Persecutions of many for their Conscience towards God.

It is also matter of Lamentation, that under this great Defection there hath been too general a fainting, not only amongst professors of the Gospel, but also amongst Ministers; yea, even amongst such, who in the main things did endeavour to maintain their Integrity, in not giving seasonable and necessary Testimony against the Defections and Evils of the Time, and keeping a due distance from them, and some on the other hand managed their Zeal with too little Discretion and Meekness.

It is also matter of Humiliation, that when Differences fell out amongst these, who did own Truth, and bear witness against the Course of Defection, they were not managed with due Charity and Love, but with too much heat and bitterness, injurious Reflections used against pious and worthy men on all hands, and scandalous Divisions occasioned, and the success of the Gospel greatly obstructed thereby, and some dangerous Principles drunk in: And after all this, there were shameful advances towards Popery, the Abomination of the Mass was set up in many places, and Popish Schools erected, and severals fell to Idolatry.

And though the Lord hath put a stop to the Course of Defection, and of his great mercy given us some reviving from our Bondage; yet we have sad cause to regrave and bemoan, that few have a due sense of our mercy, or walk answerable thereto, few are turned to the Lord in Truth, but the wicked go on to do wickedly, and there is found amongst us to this day shameful ingratitude for our mercies, Horrid impeniten-

cy under our sins, yea, even amongst those who stand most up for the Defence of the Truth: and amongst many in our Armies, there is woful Prophaneness and Debauchery. And though we profess to acknowledge, there can be no pardon of Sins, no Peace and Reconciliation with God, but by the Blood of Jesus Christ; yet few know Him, or see the Necessity and Excellency of the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; few see their need of Him, or esteem, desire, or receive Him, as he is offered in the Gospel; few are acquainted with Faith in Jesus Christ, and living by Faith on Him, as made of the Father unto us, Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption; and few walk as becometh the Gospel, and imitate our Holy Lord in Humility, Meekness, Self-denial, Heavenly-mindedness, Zeal for GOD, and Charity towards Men: But as there is even until now a great contempt of the Gospel, a great Barrenness under it; so a deep Security under our Sin and Danger, a great want of Piety toward God, and Love towards Men, with a woful Selfishness, every one seeking their own things, few the things of Christ, or the publick Good, or one anothers Welfare: And finally, the most part more ready to censure the sins of others, than to repent of their own.

Our Iniquities are increased over our heads, and our Trespasses are grown up into the Heavens, they are many in number, and hainous in their nature, and grievously aggravated, as having been contrair to great Light and Love, under signal Mercies and Judgments, after Confession and Supplication, and notwithstanding of our Profession, Promises and Solemn Vowing, and Covenanting with God to the contrair.

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Have we not then sad cause of deep Sorrow and Humiliation? And may we not fear, if we do not repent, and turn from the evil of our ways, and return to the Lord with all our hearts, that He return to do us evil, after He hath done us good, and be angry with us, until he hath consumed us?

Let us therefore humble our selves by Fasting and Praying, let us search out our sins, and consider our ways, and confess these, and other our sins, with Sorrow and Detestation; Let us turn unto the Lord with Fasting and Weeping, and with Mourning; Let us firmly Resolve and sincerely Engage to amend our ways and doings, and return unto the Lord our God, with all our heart, and earnestly pray, that for the blood of the Lamb of God, our sins may be forgiven, and our backslidings healed, and we may yet become a righteous Nation, keeping the Truth, that Religion and Righteousness may flourish, and Love, and Charity abound, and all the Lord's people may be of one mind in the Lord: and in order to all these, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, and that the Preaching of the Word, and Dispensing of the Sacraments, may be accompanied with the wonted Presence, Power and Blessing of the Spirit of the Lord; That the Lord would preserve and bless our gracious *King* and *Queen, William and Mary*, and establish Their Throne by Righteousness and Religion, and grant to these Nations, Peace and Truth together; and for that End, bless and prosper His Majesties Councils, and Forces by Sea and Land, and those of the Princes and States his Allies, for God and his Truth, that Inferiour Rulers may rule in the fear of God, and Judges be clothed with Righteousness, and that many faithful Labourers may be sent out into the Lord's Vineyard, and they who are

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sent, may find mercy to be faithful, and be blest with Success, That Families may be as little Churches of Christ, and that the Lord would pour out His Spirit on all Ranks of People, that they may be holy in all manner of Conversation, and God may delight to dwell amongst us, and to do us good.

And while we pray for our selves, let us not forget our Brethren in Foreign Churches, with whom, alas! we had too little Sympathy; Nay, let us pray, that all the ends of the Earth, may see the Salvation of God; and that He would bring his ancient people of the *Jews* to the acknowledgement of Jesus Christ; and that he would hasten the ruine of *Romish Babylon*, and advance the Reformation in Christendom, and preserve and bless the Reformed Churches; That He would pity His oppressed People, the *French Protestants*, and gather them out of all places, whither they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day; and that he would be the Defence, Strength and Salvation of any of his People, who are in War or Danger by Infidel or Popish adversaries, in *Europe* or *America*. And in particular, that the Lord would be Gracious to *Ireland*, and sanctifie to his People there, both their distress and deliverance; and perfect what concerneth them, that he would convert the Natives there to the Truth, and reduce that Land to Peace; and appoint Salvation for Walls and Bullwarks to *Brittain*.

For all these Causes and Reasons, The General Assembly hath appointed the Second Thursday of *January* next, to be Observed in all the Congregations of the Church and Nation, as a day of Solemn Fasting and Humiliation, and Prayer; Beseeching and Obtesting all, both Pastors, and People of all Ranks to be sincere and serious, in  
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Humiliation and Supplication, and universal Reformation, as they would wish to find mercy of the Lord, and have deserved wrath averted, and would obtain the Blessing of the Lord upon themselves and Posterity after them; and that the Lord may delight in us, and our Land may be as Married to him. And Ordains all Ministers, either in Kirks or Meeting-houses, to read this present Act publickly from the Pulpit, a Sabbath or two before the said Day of Humiliation: and that the several Presbyteries take care, that it be carefully Observed in their respective bounds. And where, in regard of Vacancies, the Day hereby appointed, cannot be observed, the Assembly appoints the said Humiliation, to be kept some other Day with the first convenient opportunity. And appoints the Commission for Visitation, to apply to the Council, for their Civil Sanction to the Observation thereof.

*Extracted out of the Records of Assembly, by*

*JO. SPALLING, Cls. Syn. National.*

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